

20. Santa Clara River: A, B, C, D, F			
Criteria Letter	Criteria Description	Criteria Met	Reason SEA meets Criteria
A	The habitat of core populations of endangered or threatened plant or animal species.	Yes	The only natural population of the federally endangered unarmored three-spined stickleback is within the Santa Clara River and its tributaries. The population of federally and state endangered slender-horned spineflower in Bee Canyon is one of fewer than seven known occurrences for this species, one of only two known occurrences in the County, and one of its largest populations.
B	On a regional basis, biotic communities, vegetative associations, and habitat of plant or animal species that are either unique or are restricted in distribution.	Yes	The bigcone spruce-canyon oak forests above Placerita Canyon, the vernal pool in the Placerita Canyon-Sand Canyon divide, the native grassland formations on the Golden Valley Ranch (upper Placerita Canyon), and the alluvial fans with sage scrub of lower San Francisquito Canyon, Kentucky Springs and Acton are unique and regionally restricted biotic communities within the proposed SEA. Additionally, the riparian forests and woodlands along the Santa Clara River are among the most extensive, diverse and intact formations in Southern California. Rare aquatic species, such as the unarmored three-spined stickleback, Santa Ana sucker, red-legged frog, least Bell's vireo, summer tanager, spineflower, and many others represented within the proposed SEA are found nowhere else in the region.
C	Within Los Angeles County, biotic communities, vegetative associations, and habitat of plant or animal species that are either unique or are restricted in distribution.	Yes	The cottonwood-willow forests and woodlands, alluvial fan sage scrub, coast live oak riparian forest, and bigcone spruce-canyon oak forest communities are best represented in Los Angeles County within the proposed SEA.
D	Habitat that at some point in the life cycle of a species or group of species, serves as concentrated breeding, feeding, resting, migrating grounds and is limited in availability either regionally or in Los Angeles County.	Yes	The Santa Clara River basin affords breeding opportunities for numerous species otherwise not known to breed within Los Angeles County, including California red-legged frog, summer tanager, southwestern willow flycatcher,

			and the unarmored three-spined stickleback. The extensive riparian areas shelter dozens of migrant songbird species during Winter, including high concentrations of white-crowned and golden-crowned sparrows, fox sparrow, yellow-rumped warbler, dark-eyed junco, and sharp-shinned hawk. The proposed SEA embraces the river corridor and the linkage zones considered essential to ensuring connectivity and resource values for many of the wildlife species present within the Los Angeles County portion of the Santa Clara River.
E	Biotic resources that are of scientific interest because they are either an extreme in physical/geographical limitations, or represent unusual variation in a population or community.	No	Although there are many rare biotic resources within the proposed SEA, this criteria is not met due to the lack of extremes in physical/geographical limitations, or representations of unusual variation in a population or community.
F	Areas that would provide for the preservation of relatively undisturbed examples of the original natural biotic communities in Los Angeles County.	Yes	The proposed Santa Clara River SEA encompasses some of the highest quality, least disturbed and biotically intact acreage of bigcone spruce-canyon oak forest, riparian forest and woodland, coastal sage scrub, and alluvial fan sage scrub remaining in the county, and one of only three known vernal pools in the County.